Decentralisation of Recruitment of C and D Group Posts

2554. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that direct recruitment to C and D group posts is decentralised/is done on zonal/regional/divisional basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) In terms of extant orders, direct recruitment to group 'C' and 'D' posts is required to be made on All-India basis through open advertisment in the Employment News including where it is through Employment Exchange. The procedure is based on the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Excise Superintendent, Malkapatnam, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh V/S K.B.N. Visweshwara Rao and others (1996 (6) SCALE 676).

Reply to letters of MPs by Ministers

2555. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been received by the Prime Minister from Members of Parliament against the Ministers for not replying to their letters;

(b) what action the Prime Minister's Office has taken on such serious complaints;

(c) what is the remedy for a Member if any Minister deliberately avoids to reply the letters of the M.Ps; and

(d) whether the action of the Ministers not to reply the letters of the MPs be taken as breach of privilege?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN):

(a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Office received eight complaints from the Members of Parliament agaisnt the Ministers for not replying to the letters of the Members of Parliament during the period April, 1998 to February, 1999. The Prime Minister has replied to all the concerned Members of Parliament and copies of the letters have been endorsed to the concerned Ministeries/Departments for necessary action. Following up the concern and desire of the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Secretary has urged all Secretaries to the Government of India to personally review the situation and to take effective steps to ensure that unacceptable delays do not occur in the disposal of references received from the Members of Parliament, and emphasizing the need to respond to the Honourable Members of Parliament promptly with courtesy and consideration.

(c) and (d) Clear guidelines for dealing with letters received from the Members of Parliament are contained in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure. These include instructions to the effect that communications received from the Members of Parliament should beattended to promptly. Each communication is to be replied to within 15 days; where a delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or where information is to be collected from offices other than the Ministry to which letter pertains, an interim reply should be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given. Disposal of references from the Members of Parliament should be personally monitored by the senior officer periodically. Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the conduct rules.

As the letters sent by the Members of Parliament pertain to a large variety of issues which are dealt with by various organisations, including public sector undertakings, attached and subordinate offices, State Governments etc., the Ministries/Departments concerned have to collect the relevant material from the agencies concerned and to prepare the appropriate replies which, at times, take considerable time. Therefore, it does not seem possible to fix any time schedule during which all matters raised in the letters of the Members